IV. COASTAL NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE THEME

Definition

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) is a nationwide effort to improve the utilization of geospatial data within the United States. The Center fully supports this effort for the benefit of local and state coastal resource managers. Center projects in this theme area assist coastal managers in a variety of data-related tasks, including data acquisition, processing, storage, distribution, ease of use, and inclusion in the decision-making process.

GOAL 1

The coastal management community understands and embraces the vision, concepts, and benefits of the NSDI

Objectives

1.1 Engage coastal and marine customers and encourage participation in NSDI activities.
1.2 Demonstrate the benefits of participation in the NSDI to existing and prospective coastal and marine management practitioners.
1.3 Promote the principles and practices of the NSDI to the coastal and marine community through formal and informal education, training, and marketing.

Strategies

- Develop targeted educational programs and materials for coastal and marine community user groups.
- Continually evaluate and improve our geographic information system, remote sensing, and metadata training, and look to exploit on-line educational opportunities.
- Develop, build, and showcase products and case studies that exemplify the benefits and principles of the NSDI.
- Use Coastal GeoTools as a forum for coastal and marine NSDI activities by establishing an agenda that promotes the NSDI goals and encourages participation.
- Sustain student internship and fellowship programs to increase knowledge of the NSDI in the coastal management community.
- Require adherence to NSDI standards within all Center contracts and grants that involve the collection, processing, or distribution of spatial data.

GOAL 2

Geospatial coastal and marine framework data are readily available for use by the coastal management community

Objectives

2.1 Define the major framework data sets required for use by the coastal and marine community.
2.2 Establish Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards for coastal and marine framework data sets.

2.3 Develop and publish protocols for capture and publication of important marine and coastal data and applications.
2.4 Facilitate funding mechanisms for the development, acquisition, rescue, and distribution of coastal and marine framework data sets.

Strategies

- Continue to survey coastal communities to determine framework data needs and establish priorities for the acquisition and dissemination of these data sets.

- Work with coastal states and related professional organizations to build framework data by identifying, gaining access to, and integrating existing data sets.
- Enhance Center and state agency relationships with private sector data providers.
- Engage the FGDC and other standards groups in researching, evaluating, implementing, and publishing protocol standards to broaden access to data sets.
- Establish financial support for framework data activities by identifying funding opportunities primarily through the federal government budget planning process and partnerships with key stakeholders.

GOAL 3

Innovative practices and technologies that facilitate the discovery, collection, description, access, and preservation of geospatial data are widely available to the coastal zone management community

Objectives

3.1 Continue to develop a seamless national coastal and marine geospatial data clearinghouse.
3.2 Support the evolution of common means, such as FGDC-compliant metadata or standards, to describe and exchange coastal and marine geospatial data sets.
3.3 Develop, implement, and support architectures and technologies that enable interoperability and seamless data integration.
3.4 Offer metadata training to the Center's coastal customers.
3.5 Ensure preservation and usefulness of data for future generations.

Strategies

- Work with data gathering and sharing organizations to find and develop data that support coastal resource managers and their staff.
- Engage the NOS spatial data synergy team in developing internal organizational strategies to overcome data integration and compatibility issues.

GOAL 4

Foster, develop, and implement geospatial data applications in response to the needs of the coastal and marine communities

Objectives

4.1 Identify existing applications that are capable of supporting coastal resource management efforts to balance the needs of the community with effective coastal stewardship.

4.2 Foster, develop, and implement tools that allow for the easy exchange of applications, information, and results.
4.3 Develop coastal best practice documents for the use of coastal geospatial data sets and applications.
4.4 Develop applications for coastal habitat, hazards, and communities in partnership with state and local partners.

Strategies

- Provide technical educational and training opportunities targeted at the use of geospatial data, tools, and analysis methodologies to address coastal management issues.
- Serve as a focal point for the coastal management community in the collection and sharing of ideas, methods, and needs for geospatial tools and products.
- Consistently seek customer feedback on Center products and services and integrate the feedback into products.
- Place staff on temporary reassignment within the coastal management community workforce to facilitate a greater understanding of the Center's customers and to increase the Center's ability to create innovative solutions for their issues.
- Encourage applied research and creativity by Center staff for the development of applications and products that are directly applicable to Center customers.